REMARKS

This Amendment seeks to place this application in condition for allowance. Although Applicants do not agree with the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated March 31, 2004 (hereinafter "the Office Action"), in an effort to advance the prosecution in an expeditious manner, Applicants have amended the claims to include four (4) new independent claims, namely claims 21, 26, 30 and 37, which include the subject matter found to be allowable in the Office Action. (See, the Office Action, page 3). No new matter has been added.

In particular, independent claim 21 includes the subject matter of claims 1 and 2, which was found to be allowable over the prior art of record. *Id.* Independent claim 26 includes the subject matter of claims 1 and 6, which was also found to be allowable over the prior art of record. *Id.* Finally, independent claim 30 includes the subject matter of claims 7 and 8, and independent claim 37 includes the subject matter of claims 7 and 10. Notably, claims 8 and 10 were found to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the intervening claim (i.e., claim 7). *Id.*

Moreover, several new claims (*for example*, claims 25, 36 and 39) have been added to more fully protect certain aspects of the inventions described and illustrated in this application. These claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed (see, *for example*, (1) page 11, lines 18-26). No new matter has been added.
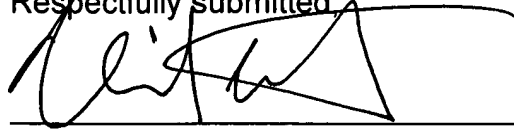
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing Amendment. Applicants submit that all of the claims present patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all of the claims.

It is noted that should a telephone interview expedite the prosecution of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted

Date: June 25, 2004

Neil A. Steinberg, Reg. No. 34,735
Telephone No. 650-968-8079